



# La Voz

Newsletter of the National Organization of Professional Hispanic  
Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees

February, 2006

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## President's Message

By Bertha Venegas  
NOPHNRCSE President

**Greetings and Happy New Year!** I thank god for the wonderful times I spent with family and friends during the holiday season. I enjoyed visiting family and friends and except for the occasional over indulgence of tamales, binuelos and other sweets I had a great time. May this New Year bring you happiness, success and new friendships.

The planning of the national conference is in full swing! The conference is scheduled for July 24-27, 2006 at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, Florida. The team is working diligently to provide us with an outstanding program focusing on technical training and professional development.



*Bertha Venegas*

Contact Lori Valadez, Planning Conference Chair, to volunteer. Lori can be reached via e-mail at: [lori.valadez@mt.usda.gov](mailto:lori.valadez@mt.usda.gov).

This is a crucial time of year when we elect officers for our organization. Be thinking about volunteering your time to serve on our Council.

This is a great opportunity for you to exercise your leadership skills and expand your experiences. The positions of President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, and Regional Representatives for the Northern Plains, Midwest, East, and Caribbean will be open.

## The National Council, 2005-2006

### President

Bertha T. Venegas  
[bertha.venegas@tx.usda.gov](mailto:bertha.venegas@tx.usda.gov)  
4100 Piedras Drive East  
Suite 253  
San Antonio, TX 78228  
210 735-3391  
210 735-3392

### Vice President

Kris Graham-Chavez  
[kristin.grahamchavez@az.usda.gov](mailto:kristin.grahamchavez@az.usda.gov)  
230 N. 1st Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
Phone: 602 280-8842  
Fax: 602 280-8798

### Executive Vice President

Carlos Suarez Olivia  
[carlos.suarez@ca.usda.gov](mailto:carlos.suarez@ca.usda.gov)  
Richard E. Lyng USDA Service Center  
430 G ST  
DAVIS, CA 95616-4155  
(530) 792-5500

### Secretary

Heather Medina  
1668 Lincoln Rd.  
Allegan, Michigan 49010  
(269) 673-6940  
(269) 673-9671 fax  
[Heather.medina@mi.usda.gov](mailto:Heather.medina@mi.usda.gov)

### Treasurer

Zaragoza Rodriguez, III  
[zaragoza.rodriguez@tx.usda.gov](mailto:zaragoza.rodriguez@tx.usda.gov)  
Rio Bravo RC&D  
HWY 16 & 13TH ST  
ZAPATA, TX 78076  
(956) 765-6911



## **Mentoring can make a difference in the lives of others** *Julie MacSwain*

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Mentoring  
can make a  
difference

Mentoring is one of the best things you can ever do for someone and yourself! With the New Year upon us, take the time to think about how you might help someone else. A mentor is an experienced person who provides career guidance and support in a variety of ways to another person - by acting as a role model, guide, tutor, coach or confidante. Perhaps, this is something that you could do in 2006. Be on the lookout for ways that you can fill the boots of being a mentor!

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Mark Your  
Calendars

### **Mark Your Calendars**

The 2006 NOPHNCSE Annual Training Conference is scheduled for **July 24 – 27, 2006**, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Check out the hotel at <http://www.rosencentre.com>.

Room reservations for the NOPHNCSE conference can be made directly with the Rosen Centre Hotel by calling 800-204 7234. Request the group rate for NOPHNCSE, which is \$83.00 for a single or double room and \$20 for each additional person. The hotel will accept reservations from March 1 through June 21, 2006.

The conference planning team has been working hard to bring you another excellent training conference. Keep your eye on the NOPHNCSE website as we will put new information there as it becomes available.

Also, if you are interested in serving on the planning team, contact Lori Valadez, conference planning chairperson, at [lori.valadez@mt.usda.gov](mailto:lori.valadez@mt.usda.gov) or 406-587-6842.

## Potential Tour Sites for the 2006 NOPHNRCSE Conference

*by Roel Herrera*

### Tour 1: Lake Apopka

Approximate duration: 5hrs - Once the most polluted Lake in the Southeast. You will see former farm fields restored to functioning wetlands. RC&D will explain the monitoring process and wildlife responses. In this package lunch is included.

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#### Potential Tour Sites

### Tour 2: The Disney Wilderness Preserve

Approximate duration: 7hrs - this preserve is just south of Orlando and is at the headwater of the Everglades ecosystem. You will see the wetland restoration Florida-style on this 12,000 acre site that was established in 1992. This tour includes a swamp-buggy tour and a slide presentation on Everglades Restoration and RC&D involvement in the USDA's NRCS WRP Program. In this package lunch is included.

### Tour 3: Adams Ranch at Lake Marion

Approximate duration: 6.5 hrs. - The Adams Ranch is the 25th largest cow/calf operation in the United States. It has been recognized nationally, being the recipient of numerous environmental awards for its land management and conservation practices. This tour also includes a tour of the citrus grove and its Best Management Practices

## **Call for Technical Papers** *By Luis A. Hernandez*

NOPHNRCSE is conducting a "Call of Technical Papers" to be presented at our Annual Training Conference which will be hosted at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida, the week of July 24<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to highlight a special project that you have worked on or to present an innovative method of outreach, and to promote your local activities. *[Note: please ensure that you develop your presentation with enough time to have it reviewed by your supervisor, if this is required.]*

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#### Call for Technical Papers

The selected presenters may attend this year's Training Conference at government time and expense, with the approval of your supervisor and State Conservationist concurrence. Please review the following criteria and consider submitting a Technical Paper for presentation at the 2006 NOPHNRCSE Training Conference.

### INSTRUCTION FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:

**Proposals must be received by COB, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006.**

Proposal must include:

- Title of Presentation.
- Presenter's name, affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email.
- Contact Person (if different from presenter) phone and email.
- Abstract of 200 words or less in a word document (Font - Times New Roman, Style - Regular, Size -12).

Technical Paper Presentations will take place during the week of our Annual Training Conference. These presentations are excellent opportunities to share information and results from outreach efforts, conservation research projects, and/or lessons learned through professional experiences. Presentations can cover programs, technologies, new initiatives, or projects.

Presentations will be scheduled in a concurrent session format. Presentations should be 20 to 25 minutes in length and allow for 5 to 10 minutes of questions and answers, for a total of 30 minutes. We will also require a written version of the final presentation by June 2<sup>nd</sup> for publication in a CD (this should include copies of any Power Point slides you will be showing).

**Timeline:**

**April 7<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for submittal of Technical Papers.**

**April 28<sup>th</sup> – Final Decision for acceptance of Abstracts.**

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Submittal of final presentation and equipment needs.**

**July 24<sup>th</sup> – Arrival at the Conference site and Presenter Meeting.**

*For questions, please contact Luis A. Hernandez (501-301-3116) or via email at [luis.hernandez@ar.usda.gov](mailto:luis.hernandez@ar.usda.gov). Proposal submissions will be accepted via email.*

### **2006 Scholarship Application Posted on Website**

By Flavio Garza Jr.

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2006 Scholarship  
information  
available on the  
web

The NOPHNRCSSE Scholarship and Endowment Fund Committee is again taking applications for 2006. The application can now be found on the NOPHNRCSSE website. The committee has been active in marketing these scholarships, but asks members to help spread the word to family, friends, and local education institutions.

Four scholarships of \$1,000 each once again will be awarded to graduating high school students accepted to an accredited college or university or registered students in their first through third years.

In addition, the Martha Guerra-Arteaga Scholarship Scholarship for Communications of \$1,000 will be awarded to one female student majoring in public affairs or a natural resources conservation-related field of study.

The complete application package must be submitted to Flavio Garza Jr., 7209 E. Saunders, Suite 7, Laredo, TX, 78043. The application package must be postmarked by April 7, 2006.

Full scholarship application information can be found in this newsletter.

## 2006 NOPHNRCSE Conference Chairpersons

Committee	Chair	Email address	Address	City		Office Phone	Cell
Chair	Lori Valadez	<a href="mailto:lori.valadez@mt.usda.gov">lori.valadez@mt.usda.gov</a>	Fed. Bldg. Rm. 443, 10 East Babcock Street	Bozeman	MT	406-587-6842	406-539-3295
Co-chair	Roel Herrera	<a href="mailto:roel.herrera@fl.usda.gov">roel.herrera@fl.usda.gov</a>	P.O. Box 248 1085 Pratt Blvd.	Labelle	FL	863-674-5700	
Auction	Stella Santos	<a href="mailto:stella.santos@tx.usda.gov">stella.santos@tx.usda.gov</a>	105 Weeping Willow	Uvalde	TX	830-278-2014	
Awards	Tony Resendez	<a href="mailto:tony.resendez@tx.usda.gov">tony.resendez@tx.usda.gov</a>	306 We. Lockhart, P.O. Box 627	Brady	TX	325-597-4666	
Communications	Julie MacSwain	<a href="mailto:julie.macswain@mn.usda.gov">julie.macswain@mn.usda.gov</a>	375 Jackson Street, Suite 600	St. Paul	MN	651-602-7859	
Equipment	Mario Morales	<a href="mailto:mario.morales@tx.usda.gov">mario.morales@tx.usda.gov</a>	321 E. Main	Uvalde	TX	830-279-0164	
Exhibits	Brunilda Velez	<a href="mailto:brunilda.velez@wi.usda.gov">brunilda.velez@wi.usda.gov</a>	740 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue West	Du-rand	WI	715-672-8663 ext. 25	787-319-6411
HEPM	Gilbert Guerrero	<a href="mailto:gilbert.guerrero@wdc.usda.gov">gilbert.guerrero@wdc.usda.gov</a>	5601 Sunnyside Ave., Room 1-1120, Stop Code: 5472	Beltsville	MD	301-504-2336	
Hospitality	Sylvia Jenkins	<a href="mailto:sylvia.jenkins@tx.usda.gov">sylvia.jenkins@tx.usda.gov</a>	257 State Highway 173 N. P.O. Box 399	Hondo	TX	830-426-2521 ext. 3	
Local Arrangements	Rosa Reyes	<a href="mailto:rosa.reyes@fl.usda.gov">rosa.reyes@fl.usda.gov</a>	P.O. Box 248 1085 Pratt Blvd.	Labelle	FL	863-674-5700	
Moderators	Irma Hernandez	<a href="mailto:irma.hernandez@de.usda.gov">irma.hernandez@de.usda.gov</a>	1221 College Park Drive, Suite 100	Dover	DE	302-678-4191	
NCRC	Rick Tafoya	<a href="mailto:rick.tafoya@ia.usda.gov">rick.tafoya@ia.usda.gov</a>	1917 Hwy. 71 N.	Carroll	IA	712-792-4415	
Poster Presentations	Ismael Matos	<a href="mailto:ismael.matos@pr.usda.gov">ismael.matos@pr.usda.gov</a>	Plaza Noreste, Suite 20		PR	787-876-7442	
Program	Tony Garcia	<a href="mailto:tony.garcia@tx.usda.gov">tony.garcia@tx.usda.gov</a>	4609 W. Loop 289	Lubbock	TX	806-791-0581	
Registration	Deni Hazell	<a href="mailto:deni.hazell@wi.usda.gov">deni.hazell@wi.usda.gov</a>	1304 N. Hillcrest Parkway, Suite A	Altoona	WI	715-832-6547 ext. 125	715-340-0823
Students /Scholarship	Russell Castro	<a href="mailto:russell.castro@tx.usda.gov">russell.castro@tx.usda.gov</a>	101 South Main	Temple	TX	254-742-9982	
Technical Papers	Luis Hernandez	<a href="mailto:luis.hernandez@ar.usda.gov">luis.hernandez@ar.usda.gov</a>	700 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 3416	Little Rock	AR	72201-3215	501-301-3100

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## Regional Reps

<b>Lopez, Rachel J</b> ADMV PROG SPECLST (530) 792-5606 <a href="mailto:rachel.lopez@ca.usda.gov">rachel.lopez@ca.usda.gov</a>	<b>WEST</b>	CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE STATE OFFICE NRCS 430 G ST # 4164 DAVIS, CA 95616-4164 (530) 792-5600
<b>NICHOLSON, Renae P</b> Soil Consvst (712) 755-2417 <a href="mailto:renae.ford@ia.usda.gov">renae.ford@ia.usda.gov</a>	<b>MIDWEST</b>	HARLAN SERVICE CENTER 2519 SOUTHWEST AVE HARLAN, IA 51537-2378 (712) 755-5116
<b>Jusino, Jazelle</b> <b>DIST CONSVST</b> <b>(386) 792-1105</b> <a href="mailto:Jazelle.Jusino@fl.usda.gov">Jazelle.Jusino@fl.usda.gov</a>	<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	JASPER SERVICE CENTER 1628 US HIGHWAY 41 NW STE A JASPER, FL 32052-6200 (386) 792-1308
<b>Morganti, Carlos E</b> BIOLOGIST (787) 831-3416 <a href="mailto:carlos.morganti@pr.usda.gov">carlos.morganti@pr.usda.gov</a>	<b>CARIBBEAN</b>	MAYAGUEZ SOIL SURVEY OFFICE PO BOX 1000 MAYAGUEZ, PR 00681-1000
<b>Collazo, Maria</b> <b>Soil Conservationist</b> <b>(609) 267-0811 ext. 122</b> <a href="mailto:maria.collazo@nj.usda.gov">maria.collazo@nj.usda.gov</a>	<b>EAST</b>	1289 Rte 38 Suite 200 Hainesport, NJ 08036 (609) 561-3223
<b>Castillo, Michael A</b> <b>Civil Engrg Techncn</b> <b>(830) 773-2518</b> <a href="mailto:michael.castillo@tx.usda.gov">michael.castillo@tx.usda.gov</a>	<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	EAGLE PASS SERVICE CENTER 2210 VETERANS BLVD STE 130 EAGLE PASS, TX 78852 (830) 773-2518
<b>Garcia, Herman B</b> <b>RANGELAND MGMT SPECLST</b> <a href="mailto:herman.garcia@co.usda.gov">herman.garcia@co.usda.gov</a>	<b>NORTHERN PLAINS</b>	COLORADO STATE OFFICE 655 PARFET ST LAKEWOOD, CO 80215-5517 (720) 544-2800

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